

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 111610Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9867
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14585

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG
SUBJECT: TAHSIN BASHIR IN LONDON

1. LONDON TIMES SEPTEMBER 7 ANNOUNCED ARRIVAL OF EGYPT'S ARAB LEAGUE AMBASSADOR BASHIR, IDENTIFIED AS "A MEMBER OF TEAM WHICH PREPARED EGYPTIAN POSITION FOR CAMP DAVID," WHO IS IN LONDON "TO BRIEF THE EUROPEAN NEWS MEDIA ON SUMMIT DEVELOPMENTS."
 2. TAHSIN TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAS "WATCHING BRIEF" FOR CAMP DAVID. HE WAS TO REMAIN IN LONDON UNTIL CAMP DAVID MEETING IS OVER AND THEN UNDERTAKE EXPLANATORY MISSION WITH MEDIA. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAS SPOKEN TO SOME WIRE SERVICES, UNDERLINING CONFIDENCE IN USG AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND DESCRIBING EGYPTIAN "INITIATIVE" AS CONCRETE, DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE AND ADDRESSED TO BASIC INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF ALL PARTIES.
 3. TAHSIN WILL RETURN TO CAIRO SEPTEMBER 11 IN ORDER TO LEAD EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL (OTHERWISE JUSTICE MINISTER WOULD BE IN
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CHARGE -- AND "THAT WILL NEVER DO") BUT PLANS TO RETURN TO LONDON LATER IN WEEK TO AWAIT END OF CAMP DAVID MEETING.

4. EMBOFF ASKED IF PLO HAS INDEED CALLED FOR PALESTINIAN/USG DIALOGUE AGENDA ITEM AT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL (CAIRO 20373). BASHIR CONFIRMED EMBASSY CAIRO'S REPORT THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE

TO THIS RUMOR. INCIDENTALLY, LONDON NEWSLETTER
"ARABIA AND THE GULF", PUBLISHED BY RIAD RAYYES,
CLAIMS SEPTEMBER 11 THAT PLO HAS SNUBBED AN
UNNAMED SENIOR EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT SENT ON SECRET
MISSION TO PERSUADE ARAFAT PLO/GOE RELATIONS
MUST BE IMPROVED IF PLO IS TO REJOIN PEACE PROCESS.

5. COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES ARE PAINFULLY AWARE,
PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH TAHSIN IS WELL NIGH
IMPOSSIBLE. HIS APPARENT REAPPEARANCE AS GOE
SPOKESMAN AND COUNSELOR TO SADAT IS INTRIGUING.
HE SAID HE HAS BEEN ON THE PHONE TO CAMP DAVID
EVERYDAY. HOWEVER, WHEN EMBOFF ASKED IF HE WAS
RETURNING, EVEN UNOFFICIALLY, TO HIS FORMER
POSITION, HE SAID THE ANSWER IS NO, AT LEAST
FOR NOW. END COMMENT

BREWSTER

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